

Historic VIRGINIA CITY AND NEVADA CITY Montana

Where today's Treasure is more than Gold.

SENATE TAXATION

EXHIBIT NO. 2

DATE 1-5-07

BY NO SB-88



Virginia City and Nevada City lie along Alder Gulch, the site of the richest placer gold strike in the Rocky Mountains. During the first three seasons in the early 1860s, an estimated \$30 million worth of gold was removed from the gulch.

Virginia City is a living town of 150 year round residents who host the West's best preserved 1860s gold mining town. The very much alive ghost town is frozen in time. It is a remarkably well preserved old west Victorian town just 20 miles west of Yellowstone National Park (90 miles by road). Visitors walk the same boardwalks that desperate Vigilantes once patrolled. Guests are transported to a time when rowdy miners mingled in saloons and restaurants with women of negotiable affection. View over 100 historic buildings complete with artifacts and furnishings. Ride the 1910 fully refurbished steam locomotive or the Overland stagecoach, go horseback riding, pan for gold, attend a live theater show, go on a Ghost Walk tour, stay the night in comfortable historic lodging. Shop in unique gift and specialty shops. Enjoy fine dining and old-fashioned bakery and candy shop goods.



Nevada City, just 1.5 miles down the road, has 14 historic buildings original to the site plus a collection of more than 100 other historic buildings saved from locations all over Montana. The town provides a great backdrop for Living History weekends available through the summer months. Visit the Nevada City Music Hall with a collection of historic music machines, gaviolis and player pianos--the largest historic music machine collection in the world open to the public. Virginia City and Nevada City are the true and original Old West. They are gems, held within an incredibly rich area of natural beauty, recreation and history.

Attractions & Activities

Live Theater

The Illustrious Virginia City Players enter their 57th season in 2006 at the Virginia City Opera House. Offering 19th century melodrama with live vaudeville shows daily, Tuesday through Sunday. During the show, enjoy your favorite beverage from the Bale of Hay Saloon, right next door. **Rate:** \$15, \$8 children. **Contact:** 800-829-2969, virginiacityplayers.com



Satire! Foolishness! Absurdity! Bawdy, and Risque!
Enjoy live comedy with the *The Brewery Follies*, performing at the old H.S. Gilbert Brewery. Sip on some of Montana's finest microbrews during the show. Performances nightly Memorial Day through Labor Day. Mature content. **Rate:** \$15 **Contact:** 800-829-2969, www.breweryfollies.com. Reservations advised.

Thanks to
First Madison Valley Bank
for their assistance in
producing this brochure.



Popular Attractions:

- ❖ Live theater
- ❖ Steam train rides
- ★ Moonlight train rides
- ❖ Stagecoach rides
- ❖ Ghost Walk Tours
- ❖ Gold panning
- ❖ Rock hounding
- ❖ Old-time photos
- ❖ Living history
- ❖ Horseback riding
- ❖ Historic Music Hall
- ❖ Grand Victorian Ball
- ❖ Old West celebrations
- ❖ Cowboy poetry
- ❖ Horseback poker rides
- ❖ Old-time saloons
- ❖ Unique shopping
- ❖ Museums
- ❖ Historic tours
- ❖ Historic hotels, cabins
- ❖ Bed & breakfasts
- ❖ Fine dining
- ❖ Live music
- ❖ Old-time bakeries
- ❖ Old-time candy store
- ❖ Fishing and rafting

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More Attractions & Activities

Event schedule at www.virginiacitychamber.com

Train Rides

Ride our fully restored 1910 Baldwin Steam Locomotive No. 12 summer weekends or our smaller train weekdays.

Rates: \$12 Steam, \$8 small train. Youth, children and group rates available, plus combo tickets with Nevada City museum. **Contact:** 800-829-2969, virginiacitymt.com

Enjoy special Moonlight and Steam rides each summer full moon.



Living History

Experience reenactors demonstrating historic skills and portraying Alder Gulch's infamous characters--prospectors, blacksmiths, Victorian ladies, shopkeepers, Vigilantes and Road Agents to name a few. Each summer weekend in Nevada City, a different theme or piece of the Gulch's story is featured. **Rate:** 2-day pass to Nevada City Museum, \$8 adult, child, youth and group rates available. **Contact:** 406-843-5247, virginiacitymt.com

Nevada City Music Hall

The Nevada City music hall is filled with a mind-boggling variety of machines that, for a coin or two, will fill the air with the sounds of piano, horns, pipes and drums. One unique machine features music from a real violin played with mechanical fingers. This collection is the largest historic music machine collection in the world that is available for public display. **Contact:** 1-800-829-2969



Saloons

Visit the Bale of Hay, an authentic Wild West Saloon complete w/ Montana's best microbrews. Live music & festivals all summer or the Pioneer Bar, keeping Virginia City in good spirits through the ages!

Gold Panning

Alder Gulch Gold Mining Museum & Gift Shop offers visitors of all ages a chance to swirl a gold pan, tour an outdoor collection of mining equipment or watch a demonstration. Instructors, equipment, raw gold bearing dirt, and vials to keep your finds in are provided. Gold found is yours to keep! **Rates:** Panning - \$12 bucket provides about 1 hour panning for 4 people. Demonstrations - \$40, groups up to 50 people.

Guided walking tours of the outdoor mining museum explain each piece of equipment and the history of how it came to the area. 30-minute tour, \$3/person.

Hours: Memorial Weekend through the first week of September and by appointment. 10 am - 6 pm. Groups are encouraged to call in advance. **Contact:** John & Carma Sinerius, 866-664-0424 or 406-843-5526



Historic Virginia City & Nevada City, Montana

Ghost Walk Tours

Ghosts and Spirits still haunt this legendary Gold Rush Capitol. Hear haunting stories and visit buildings where the hauntings occurred.

Summers, nightly at dusk-\$7, 12 and under \$5. 800-829-2969



Overland Stagecoach

Take a fun historic tour by stage departing

from the historic Virginia City stagestop in front of the old Wells Fargo office. The route travels part of the original stagecoach road to the site of Virginia City's first gold discovery!

Horseback Trail Rides

Rejoin the "good ol' days" on the back of the cowboy's best friend. 1 to 2 hour rides.

Contact: BJ & Lisa Morgan, morganhorshoe1@cs.com



Restaurants Choose from a variety of dining experiences--Banditos serving fine Southwestern cuisine, the Wok featuring Chinese, Bob's Place with pizza, sandwiches and ice cream, Metropolitan Market with soup, sandwiches desserts and espresso, Star Bakery and VC Café serving breakfasts, burgers, soup, salad, specialties and homemade pies!

Museums & Tours

Visit the Thompson-Hickman Museum, Madison County Museum, or Nevada City Museum with over 100 historic buildings complete with artifacts.

Experience tours by train, stage, 1941 fire truck. Self-guided walking tour guides available.



Shopping

Visit many shops in Virginia and Nevada Cities.

Fishing & Outdoor Fun

In the heart of the world's best fly-fishing country! Fish the Ruby, Madison, Jefferson and Yellowstone Rivers. Or try our kid's fishing pond in Virginia City. Enjoy hiking in abundance in Montana's Big Sky Country.

Lodging

Fairweather Inn in Virginia City



The Fairweather Inn in the heart of historic Virginia City, Montana, is furnished with antiques offering a glimpse into the past.

Six rooms with private baths, eight other rooms share facilities

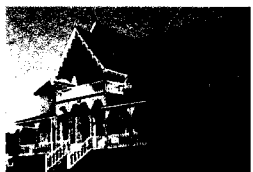
"down the hall," much like hotel rooms in the late 1800's. All rooms have one or two double beds and a sink. Centrally located, all restaurants, shopping, entertainment and activities are within easy walking distance.



We can host large groups for weddings, reunions, bus tours or other special events. Theater, room and dinner packages are available. **Rates:** \$75 per night. **Contact:** 800-829-2969 or www.aldergulchaccommodations.com. We offer complimentary rooms for bus driver and guides, plus discounts at Nevada City Museum. Luggage handling assistance available. We are open mid-May through mid-September.

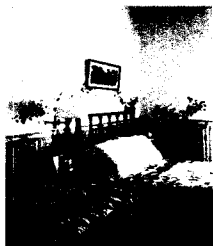
The Stonehouse Inn *Bed & Breakfast*

The Stonehouse is located on a quiet street only blocks away from downtown Virginia City. After enjoying one of our gourmet breakfasts, you may tour historical sites in and around Virginia City. We have five guest rooms that share two bathrooms and can accommodate 12 guests. Planning a wedding or reunion, you can rent the entire house.



We know your stay will be exceptional.

We provide extra services for special occasions. Open spring and summer, fall and winter by chance. **Rate:** \$75 **Contact:** John & Linda Hamilton, 406-843-5504, www.stonehouseinnbb.com. Reservations strongly recommended.



Hill Top Lodging

Experience beautiful mountain vistas in this one of a kind private home with

exceptionally large rooms, private sitting areas, private baths, spacious outdoor decks and lawn. We offer a select number of rooms to assure your privacy and a relaxed environment.

Just two minutes from historic



downtown by car or a short walk. A full continental breakfast is provided and may be enjoyed at your leisure in the beautiful large kitchen which is decorated with artwork by Montana artists or on the spacious outdoor decks, both offer exceptional mountain vistas. We can accommodate eight people between our lodge and guest cabin. **Contact:** Billy Doyle, 406-843-5568, www.hilltoplodging.com.



Nevada City Hotel & Cabins

includes fourteen hotel rooms and seventeen cabins. All guest rooms at the Nevada City Hotel & Cabins have private baths or showers.

Rooms have one or two double beds, and some cabins can accommodate families of five or more. Hotel includes two Victorian suites with beautiful period furniture. Meals are available next door at the Star Bakery, or you may experience fine dining in Virginia City (1.5 miles).



BENNETT HOUSE COUNTRY INN



Our Grand 1879 Victorian Style Inn offers casual elegance in this historic wild west town.

Six rooms with shared baths are each



decorated with a unique theme.

Our charming log cabin offers accommodations separate from the main house, ideal for a family or small group. It has its own fully equipped kitchen, bathroom, a living room with a pull out sofa sleeper, TV, dining area and a loft



featuring two double beds.

Rates ranging from \$75-\$85 (cabin \$95) include a delicious full breakfast. Open Year round. **Contact:** 877.843.5220 or visit www.bennetthouseinn.com.

Just An Experience

Cabins with cheerful decor, modern amenities and relaxing atmosphere. Cabins have a full kitchen, color television and dining area. Each cabin offers a sleeping loft - great for families and friends!



Guest rooms in lodge with eclectic antiques. Great for year-round getaways, small family gatherings, special occasions, honeymoons or small meetings.

A unique place, easy to find, hard to forget! **Contact:** John & Carma Sinerius, 1-866-664-0424, www.justanexperience.com.



More Lodging



Broken Arrow Lodge

Located 30 miles north of Virginia City on the prestigious Ruby River.

Modern facility with phone, electricity, wireless internet, satellite TV, and a hot tub to relax. We offer many activities: horseback riding, fishing, float trips, day trips to Historic Nevada City and Virginia City, wildlife viewing, Dude Ranch Vacations and fall big game hunting. Our private pond is stocked with 200 rainbows ranging from 12



inches up. Rooms in a lodge with meals served family style. Transportation available. **Rates** - \$125/day for lodging, meals, and activities. Additional fees for guided fishing and hunting. **Contact** - Erwin & Sherry Clark, Broken Arrow Lodge, PO Box 177, Alder, MT 59710, 800-775-2928, www.brokenarrowlodge.com.

Camping Virginia City RV Park - Located 1/2 mile east of historic Virginia City on Highway 287. Full service campground w/pull thru & hook-ups. Cabins available. RV waste disposal. Clean restrooms with showers, 888-833-5493,

Transportation www.virginiacityrvpark.com.

Air Service

The nearest airports to Virginia City are located at Butte (70 miles) and Bozeman (68 miles). Daily air service is available on the following carriers (subject to change):

- ♦ Delta Air Lines via all major cities to Bozeman and Butte
- ♦ Northwest Air Lines via all major cities to Bozeman.
Northwest from Minneapolis or New York to Butte.
- ♦ United Air Lines via all major cities to Bozeman.
United from New York or Denver to Butte.
- ♦ Alaska Air Lines via Seattle, Denver or Salt Lake City to Bozeman and Butte.
- ♦ American Air Lines via New York to Butte
- ♦ Big Sky Airlines also provides daily commuter service to MT, WA, ID, UT and CO



**Visit soon for
a true taste of
Montana, where the
Old West lives on...**



**Historic Virginia City &
Nevada City, Montana**
1-800-829-2969

www.virginiacitychamber.com



Historic Virginia City & Nevada City, Montana

The Gingerbread House

This Victorian treasure was built in 1898 by one of Virginia City's most prominent citizens. We are located just one block away from historic attractions, shops and restaurants. We have two comfortable rooms



with shared bath. Plus, "Karen's Cabin" features a kitchenette, full bath, queen bed and TV/VCR-with rocking chair on the front porch. Romantic getaway with a rustic charm.

Rates: \$75 rooms, \$95 cabin. **Contact:** (800) 286-4970, www.virginiacity.com/ginger.htm



Western hospitality, breath taking scenery, comfortable accommodations. Horseback riding adventures, fly fishing, native wildlife, hiking, history and homestead tours. Our lodge consists of five

private rooms and five private cabins with kitchens along the banks of the Ruby River.

Contact: Jake and Donna McDonald, 800-735-3973, www.ucomontana.com.



Rental Cars

Butte airport - Avis 800-831-2847
Enterprise 406-494-1900

Bozeman airport
Budget Rent a Car 800-952-8343
Enterprise Rent-a-car 800-261-7331
Hertz Rent A Car 800-654-3131
Alamo/National Car Rental 800-227-3768

Bus Charters

Karst Stage/4X4 Stage 800-287-4759

Nearby Sites of Interest

Yellowstone National Park, W. Yellowstone 84 mi.
Lewis and Clark Caverns, near Whitehall - 70 mi.
Lewis and Clark Interpretive Site, Twin Bridges - 30 mi.
Headwaters State Park (Lewis and Clark site), Three Forks - 70 mi.
Bannack State Park (gold mining ghost town), near Dillon - 90 mi.
Big Hole Battlefield, Wisdom - 110 mi.
Montana's Historical Society Museum, Helena - 120 miles
Gates of the Mountains (Lewis and Clark site), Helena - 140 miles
Mining Museum, Butte - 72 miles
Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman - 67 miles
Grant-Kohrs Ranch (historic), Deer Lodge - 133 mi